

something old
something **new**
something borrowed
something **green**

With green being the new, well everything, it's no surprise that brides everywhere are hopping on this new branch of an idea as well. Going green is the most useful and innovative way every bride and groom can complete their special day while doing their part to help the environment. And with a job as big as "saving the world," the prices are reasonably low. Nowadays, every aspect of your wedding day can be customized not only to your needs, but to Mother Nature's as well.



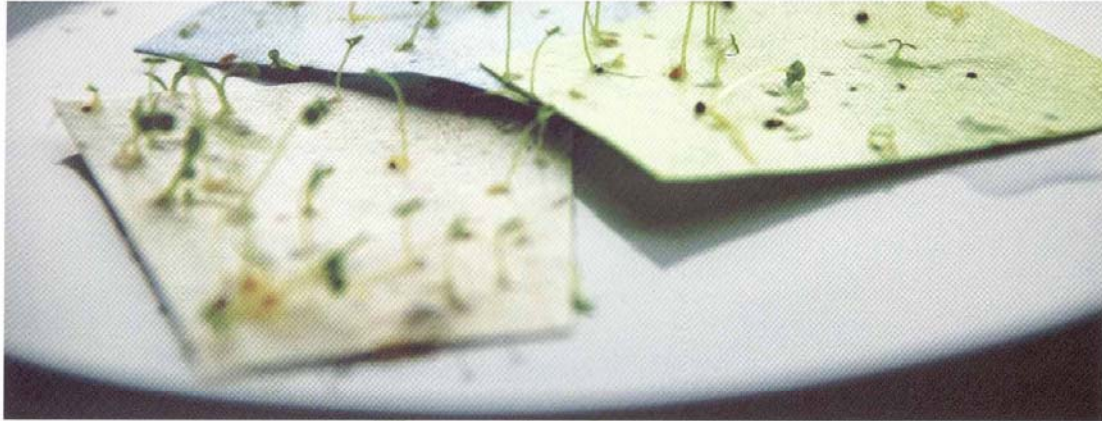
Chocolate has been a recurring guest at wedding receptions for years. But now that irresistible sugar has become earth-friendly, you can't get any better than that. Endangered Species Chocolate has brought together the heart-breaking truth of the endangered animal list and the organic blend of milk and dark chocolate. Each chocolate bar is made from shade-grown cacao and the wrapper is decorated with an endangered species, whose information can be found inside. Ten percent of Endangered Species Chocolate's net profits are donated to help support species, habitats and humanities. For more information on how to "Savor the Chocolate and Save our Planet" visit www.chocolatebar.com.



Going green around wedding season doesn't always have to include plant life, actually it *really* doesn't have to include anything that is physically given. Organizations like JustGive make it possible for brides-to-be to "go green" with their wedding favors by not giving any at all, and instead giving money to their favorite charity. Or you can provide your guests with JustGive gift certificates that never expire and can be redeemed at any of the one million local and national charities so they can participate themselves. For more information visit www.justgive.org.



Thanks to companies like Tree in a Box, your favors can be just that. Since 1991, Tree in a Box has sold over one million tree kits, and in turn helped grow over one million trees. This giving company believes in the ancient and much-needed tradition of planting a tree to mark a special event. Tree in a Box also donates a portion of their profits to conservation groups. For more information on tree favors and to make your wedding day one to remember visit www.treeinabox.com.



Plantable paper, embedded with wildflower seeds. www.botanicalpaperworks.com

Perhaps you have been practicing a green lifestyle for years, conserving and recycling everything you can, or maybe it's a brand new concept that you want to learn more about. Either way, *going green* is currently one of the hottest trends in well, everything. That being said, it's no surprise that more and more couples are incorporating eco-friendly elements into their wedding ceremonies. Every engaged couple wants their ceremony to be memorable, and *going green* gives them the option to include creative elements in their celebrations that everyone, including the environment, can enjoy.

One of the advantages of green weddings is the opportunity to really get creative. Brides and grooms can expand upon traditional bridal elements in order to set their ceremony apart from all the rest. There's no question that every newlywed couple has their own idea of the perfect wedding. However, "going green" provides eco-friendly alternatives suitable for everyone.

Like any engagement, green weddings start with a ring. As taste in wedding rings have evolved over the years, so have the options to the traditional blood diamond. What was once considered a stereotypical wedding ring has now evolved into styles such as vintage rubies and sapphires. Couples are turning to eco-friendly organizations such as *Brilliant Earth* and *Green Karat* who offer conflict-free gems that enable them to be both romantic *and* environmentally conscious. Their primary selection consists of platinum and white gold, however, they also offer a wide selection of rings that can be customized by you. That being said, what could be more personal than sending a bouquet of flowers to each of your guests? Thanks to organizations such as *Botanical Paperworks*, your guests can utilize these beautifully designed invitations to spark their green thumbs. These naturally festive favors are made with seeds embedded right in the paper, and since they are 100% biodegradable, they will leave nothing behind except a colorful display of wildflowers. Carrying through with this organic theme for your menu choices has also become an increasingly popular choice among brides and grooms. And it's important to know that an organic theme does not mean exclusively vegetarian dishes. It simply means utilizing locally grown vegetables and produce, along with farm-friendly meats and cheeses. A few modifications can go a long way, and when combined, these ingredients can offer a surprisingly tasty, not to mention healthy twist.



Platinum Victorian Halo Sapphire Ring, made with eco-friendly and ethically sourced gemstones and conflict-free diamonds. www.brilliantearth.com



Custom men's wedding band, made with precious stones, petrified wood inlays, and recycled titanium with inlays in recycled silver. www.greencarat.com